

To: Pfaltzgraff - CDPHE, Patrick[paltzgraff@state.co.us]
From: Garcia, Bert
Sent: Fri 8/7/2015 2:44:46 PM
Subject: RE: Pictures from the Gold King release

Thanks Pat.

Bert Garcia

Director, Ecosystems Protection Program

EPA Region 8

From: Pfaltzgraff - CDPHE, Patrick [mailto:paltzgraff@state.co.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 6:19 PM
To: Mylott, Richard
Cc: Jan Stapleman - CDPHE; Martha Rudolph - CDPHE; David Kurz - CDPHE; Salley - CDPHE, Mark; Garcia, Bert; Palomares, Art; Bahrman, Sarah; Meghan Trubee - CDPHE
Subject: Re: Pictures from the Gold King release

Richard,

I wanted to give you a heads up that we have been getting quite a bit of contact regarding this spill. I got a call from one of our state senators in Durango who indicated she was likely going to be contacting the Colorado federal congressional delegation (she mentioned Congressman Scott Tipton). I've cc'd the water quality folks I interface with to bring them into the loop. Please let me know if you have questions.

Pat

Patrick J. Pfaltzgraff

Division Director

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4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246

patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us | www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd

24-hr Environmental Release/Incident Report Line: 1.877.518.5608

On Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 1:00 PM, Salley - CDPHE, Mark <mark.salley@state.co.us> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mylott, Richard** <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>

Date: Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 12:20 PM

Subject: RE: Pictures from the Gold King release

To: "Smith - CDPHE, Warren" <warren.smith@state.co.us>, "mark.salley@state.co.us" <mark.salley@state.co.us>

fyi

August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

From: Smith - CDPHE, Warren [mailto:warren.smith@state.co.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 9:35 AM
To: Mylott, Richard
Subject: Fwd: Pictures from the Gold King release

This just in.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jamison - CDPHE, Doug <doug.jamison@state.co.us>
Date: Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 9:26 AM
Subject: Fwd: Pictures from the Gold King release
To: Randy Perlis <randy.perlis@state.co.us>, "Schmittdiel, Paula" <Schmittdiel.Paula@epa.gov>, "Smith, Warren" <warren.smith@state.co.us>, Monica Sheets - CDPHE <monica.sheets@state.co.us>, "Baughman, GARY" <gary.baughman@state.co.us>

Pictures

Doug Jamison

Superfund/Brownfields Unit Leader

State of Colorado, Dept. of Public Health and Environment

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver 80246

office: [303.692.3404](tel:303.692.3404) | fax: [303.691.7878](tel:303.691.7878)

email: doug.jamison@state.co.us

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Naugle - CDPHE, Greg** <greg.naugle@state.co.us>

Date: Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 9:08 AM

Subject: Pictures from the Gold King release

To: Sarah Johnson <sarah.johnson@state.co.us>, Andrew Ross - CDPHE
<andrew.ross@state.co.us>, Aimee Konowal - CDPHE <aimee.konowal@state.co.us>,
Nicole Rowan - CDPHE <nicole.rowan@state.co.us>, Patrick Pfaltzgraff - CDPHE
<patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us>

Cc: Doug Jamison - CDPHE <Doug.Jamison@state.co.us>

Here are a couple of pictures Tom Schaffer, in our Grand Junction office, received of the Gold King release yesterday.

The first one appears to be cement creek, while the second looks like the Animas.

EPA is taking the lead on the spill, and they are trying to coordinate a call for later today.



Greg Naugle
Section Manager
Field Services Section

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24-hr Environmental Release/Incident Report Line: 1-877-518-5608

Colorado Water Quality Regulations

The contents of this email may be considered a public record, and therefore subject to the Colorado Open Records Act.

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Warren Smith, APR

Community Involvement Manager

Community Involvement Unit

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Mark Salley

Communications Director

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